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NOMINEES FOR ATLANTIC WRITING AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Library Association have announced the

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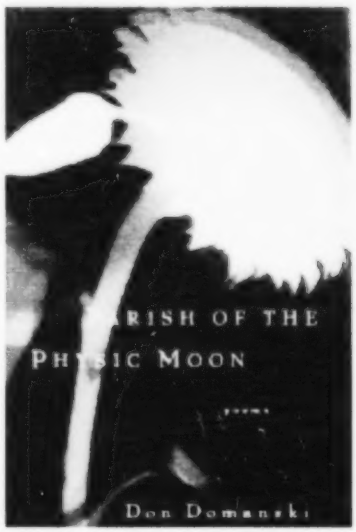
names of the nominees for the 1999 Atlantic Writing Awards. There are several prestigious awards to be given: the Evelyn Richardson Prize for non-fiction, the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize and, joining this event for the first time, the Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature. The winners of each will be announced on Friday, 28 May, 4:40 pm at a reception at the Great Hall, University Club, Dalhousie University.

When announcing the nominees during the Word on the Street Canada Book Day Spelling Bee, WFNS director Jane Buss said, "We are enormously proud of the vibrant writing in this community, rich in its variety, strong in its power to nourish the spirit. Something very precious exists in these books, something which we must make every effort to sustain and celebrate. We hope that the month long lead up to the announcement of the winners will give Atlantic Canadians incentive to curl up with a very good book."



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Visit the WFNS website at **http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/WFNS/pr23apr99.html** for short biographies of the nominees, pictures and brief descriptions of the books. For more information, please call: Jane Buss or Joanne Merriam, WFNS, (902)423-9116 Fax (902) 422-0881 or e-mail: writers1@fox.nstn.ca

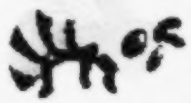
Dartmouth Book and Writing Awards Finalists Selected

In celebration of Canada Book Day, the Dartmouth Book & Writing Awards Steering Committee, the Halifax Regional Library, and the Halifax Regional Municipality officially announced the finalist titles for the 11th Annual Dartmouth Book & Writing Awards. The Dartmouth Book & Writing Awards honour the best Canadian literature featuring Nova Scotia and its people, and recognizes the valuable contribution writers make to our cultural heritage. Publishers across the country submitted 35 titles in the 1999 competition, from which two juries selected six finalists. Awards of $1200 each will be presented to the winning authors in the fiction and non-fiction categories. These awards have been sponsored by Jarislowsky Fraser Ltd. and Knight, Bain, Seath & Holbrook. The winners of this year's awards will be announced at a reception and reading on Wednesday, May 12 at 7

p.m. at the Holiday Inn Harbourview, Dartmouth. Tickets are $12. Awards sponsored by Cunard Fuels will also be presented to authors from Dartmouth schools. See the May-June issue of the Halifax Regional Library Guide for a complete list of the short listed books. For more information call Sara Brodie at the Halifax Regional Library, 490-5887.

Spelling Bee puts out the buzz for Word on the Street

Word on the Street held its third Spelling Bee at the Lord Nelson Hotel as part of the Canada Book Day celebrations going on throughout Nova Scotia. The Spelling Bee is a fund-raiser for Word on the Street, Halifax's book and magazine fair. Frank Oram and Gillian Webster from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library joined with two other teams at a table reserved for "The Bee's Knees." Nova Scotia poet Sue Goyette was the master of ceremonies and provided much hilarity with her honeyed tongue. Elizabeth Eve as queen bee was terrific, and easily spelled words like "Khartoum" and "miscegenation," although she did have a little trouble with "daguerreotype." For more information on the 1999 Word on the Street event, to be held Sunday, September 26th, please contact the Word on the Street office at 902-423-4302 or email wotshalifax@ns.sympatico.ca.

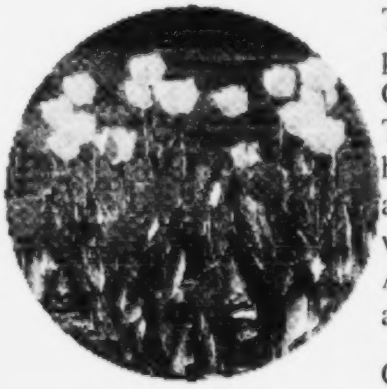


LIBRARY CARD MONTH GREAT SUCCESS AT CAPE BRETON REGIONAL LIBRARY

New Library card registrations were the highest they have been in 10 years during Library Card Month in March at the Cape Breton Regional Library. Organized by the library in association with the local daily newspaper, the Cape Breton Post, the goals of Library Card Month were to spread awareness of public libraries in Cape Breton and Victoria Counties, increase Library membership, and promote literacy in the area.

The Cape Breton Post ran many stories and features on the Cape Breton Regional Library throughout the month. One of particular interest was the information box they ran on page two of the newspaper each day. The box contained reading tips, a library or literacy fact and the title of a new adult and children's book going into circulation on that day. This feature drew much attention and many comments during the month. The library had hoped to increase membership by 1000, actual registration exceeded expectations with 1359 people signing up. Of this number, 58 per cent were people who had never had a library card. Additionally, overall circulation increased over the same month last year.

TULIP FESTIVAL INVOLVEMENT AT COLCHESTER-EAST HANTS REGIONAL LIBRARY CONTINUES



Truro and area planted more than 300,000 tulips in the Fall of 1998 in preparation for this Spring's International Tulip Festival May 14-16. The Colchester-East Hants Regional Library main branch is in the centre of the Tulip Promenade with all its wonderful activities. The library is again the host for the Tulip Sponsor Reception, during which a piper will greet approximately 100 business owners at the door, and the Truro Concert Band will provide additional music. The library conference room will house the Art in Bloom painting display with provincial representation and money awards for the top three paintings.

On the Promenade, our bookmobile will have story time presented by the

Young Friends group. Three large tents will be filled with jazz bands, displays, woodcarvers, buskers and artists at work. There will be singing, dancing and food next to the library in Cenotaph Park, and a Craft Show in the Truro Curling Club with 46 vendors from around Nova Scotia. Through this event, the library has developed lasting partnerships with the business community. Visit the web site at **www.nstulips.com**

NEWS FROM THE HALIFAX REGIONAL LIBRARY

African Heritage Month Celebrations honor library

The Halifax North Memorial Public Library was recognized as the birthplace of the Black History Month Association during the 15th annual African Heritage Month this February. The Halifax North Memorial Public Library is proud to be a founding member of African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, which has grown from three programs hosted at the library to more than 100 programs hosted province wide. The original Black History Month, as it was referred to then, grew out of a program idea by Adelia Amyoomi, former Halifax North Library Manager; Terry Simons, former Library Youth Worker; and David Woods of the Cultural Awareness Youth Group. The three were looking at African Heritage Month celebrations in the United States, and felt that Nova Scotia needed to celebrate its African heritage.

Fifteen years later, African Heritage Month continues to grow. "We now host the largest African Heritage Month celebrations across the country," explained Tracey Jones, Branch Manager of Halifax North Library. Under the umbrella of the Black History Month Association more than 40 member organizations host programs in libraries, schools, museums, cultural centres, and in other venues. This year, the Halifax Regional Library hosted events at the Spring Garden Road Library and the Halifax North Branch. A gala evening featuring some of the African Nova Scotian community's best storytellers was a night to remember. Alfreda Smith, Dr. Ruth Johnson and David Woods brought to life stories of African Canadian communities such as Africville and North Preston. Another entertaining evening featured author Lawrence Hill who read from his latest novel, *Any Know Blood.* The long running Women's Group of the Halifax North Public Library hosted a series of speakers throughout the month. Topics included Black Women and the Arts, Black Genealogy, and Black Women and Politics with guest Yvonne Atwell, the first African Nova Scotian woman to be elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature.

(Left to right) Halifax Regional Library CEO **Judith Hare** and Halifax North Branch Manager **Tracey Jones** accept a plaque from **Sandra Smith Muir** and **Rustem Southwell**, co-chairs of the Black History Month Association.

WESTERN COUNTIES REGIONAL LIBRARY (WCRL) NEWS

Radio station partners with library to form CJLS Birthday Club

In an effort to increase the number of children registered at the library, WCRL has entered into a partnership with CJLS radio station to start the CJLS Birthday Club. In order to be eligible, children will have to be library card holders, and they must register for the birthday club at their public library. CJLS will provide the birthday club cards. Children registered in the club will have their birthdays announced on the radio. Announcements will be scheduled for approximately 3:45 p.m. each day. Plans are in the works to link the birthday club with the Summer Reading Program.

More kudos for Health Project

The Western Health Information Project (WHIP), an Internet-based consumer health site begun in 1996 gained national recognition on February 1st with the release of Industry Canada's Blue Ribbon Panel Report on "Smart Communities." WHIP, which has already been noted as a model for rural Canada, was cited as an example of an innovative smart project for its use of information technology in the delivery of health care information.

Communities Initiatives, announced in a June 1999 speech by Prime Minister Jean Chretien, is part of the national Connectedness Agenda which aims to make Canada the most connected nation in the world by the year 2000. The unique WHIP partnership connects residents of Southwestern Nova Scotia by providing a combination of local and general consumer health information on the Internet. Jackie MacDonald, Regional Librarian with the Western Regional Health Board, manages the web site, and Trudy Amirault, Western Counties Regional Library Director, put the wheels in motion to deliver the information service through the ten public library branches in Digby, Shelburne and Yarmouth counties. Planning is underway for the WHIP project to be expanded to serve all of western Nova Scotia. The WHIP health site can be accessed free of charge at **http://www.ycn.library.ns.ca.hosp/health.htm** at any library in the tri-counties. The only requirement is a library card, which is also free.

Friends of the Library Day chance to share information

WCRL has declared Saturday, June 5th as Friends of the Library Day. Friends of Library Day will be hosted at the Headquarters Library in Yarmouth. FOL Day will provide an opportunity for Friends across the region to meet each other and exchange ideas and information in a relaxed and informal environment. Some of the items on the agenda include:

Show & Tell: What Worked, What Didn't
Freebies: Resources Available to Friends
Who's Who? What's What?:The Role of Friends, Staff, the Regional Director, and the Library Board
Extra! Extra!: How to Promote Your Group & Its Activities

During lunch, which will be provided by WCRL, the successes of each Friends group will be highlighted and tokens of appreciation will be presented.

Robert Munsch contest winners enjoy performance

Joanne Head, Children's Coordinator for the Western Counties Region, accompanied an excited group of six children and six adults to the Robert Munsch performance at the Rebecca Cohn Theatre April 18th. The generous contributions of two local businesses helped keep costs to a minimum. Campbell's Shuttle Service donated two

vans for the trip, and the group enjoyed lunch compliments of McDonald's Restaurants (Yarmouth). The Munsch performance was a hit with the children. In the words of four year old Haley Lombard, "winning is cool!" The winners of the contest, which was held during March Break, were: Chelsea Stoddard and Hayley Lombard from Digby County, Brad Donaldson and Hannah Deveau from Yarmouth county, and Taylor Chetwynd and Patrick Locke from Shelburne county.

Digby pays tribute to Isaiah W. Wilson

On February 28th more than 60 people gathered at the Isaiah W.Wilson Memorial Library in Digby to pay tribute to Mr. Wilson (1848-1928). A portion of the historian's original home was unveiled during a ceremony acknowledging his contribution to the Digby area. The facade of the Wilson home, donated by Drs. Alexander Leighton and Jane Murphy Leighton, will be a reminder of the determined efforts of this slightly built, near-sighted man who, walking far and wide, despite many obstacles along the way, never lost sight of his dream of recording the history of Digby County.

***Come to Supper II* in the works!**

The call has already gone out for recipes for *Come to Supper II*, a follow-up to the highly successful *Come to Supper: Favourite Recipes from Southwestern Nova Scotia*. Organizers are keeping with the "down home" cooking theme that was such a hit with the first cookbook. WCRL is pleased to announce that Sobeys, sponsor of the first volume, is also sponsoring *Come to SupperII*. The second edition is set to be launched on Saturday, October 23rd.

Library exceeds fundraising goal

Once again WCRL surpassed its fundraising goal of $30,000 for the year. A total of $32,937 has been raised. Most of the funds ($22,775) were raised through the Adopt-A-Book campaign. This amount represents 1536 adoptions. Booksales and memorial donations account for the remainder of funds. WCRL has been fundraising since 1996 to help off-set the escalating cost of books. Through the determined efforts of staff, Friends of the Library groups, sponsors and a very generous public, fundraising targets have been met or exceeded each year. Total funds raised over the past three years now stands at $94,513.

GATES LIBRARY INITIATIVE PROMISES ENHANCED SERVICE

The Gates Library Initiative, a program under the Gates Learning Foundation, is dedicated to partnering with public libraries to bring access to computers, the Internet, and digital information to patrons in low-income communities and those caught in the digital divide in the United States and Canada. The Nova Scotia Provincial Library has applied for funding through this initiative. If the application is successful, the GLI will partner with library leaders in Nova Scotia to provide grants to the 56 eligible public libraries. The grants will provide computer hardware, software and support to each library and technology training to librarians. Eligible bilingual communities will receive extra hardware and Francophone software. The total value of the application including equipment for 4 regional training centres is $1,313,800.

Working with a public library leadership coalition of the major organizations and associations in the province, Nova Scotia Provincial Library coordinated the development of a province wide application based on the identified needs of the province. Following the acceptance of the province wide plan by the Gates Learning Foundation, each regional library will be required to submit an individual application for

funding. The Nova Scotia proposal builds on the services already provided through the public library system. In order to help targeted clients, the Nova Scotia project, called Help@Library, will introduce two new services: rapid response reference workstations and workstations specifically designed to support computer skills training. Information on the Help@Library workstations will then be tailored to include sources to meet the information needs of specific identified groups such as literacy organizations, African-Nova Scotians, Mi'kmaq, women's groups, artists, youth and seniors groups.

The Help@Library reference workstations will be readily available in convenient areas with no booking required. The terminals will provide information from many sources including Microsoft educational and informational software; library catalogues; full-text periodical databases; and government, employment and local community sites, and can be customized to meet each community's unique needs. The Help@Library training skills workstations will be available for longer periods of time for target users. These workstations will be specifically configured to allow users to practice keyboarding and literacy skills, write resumes, complete upgrading homework, and learn how to use different software. Training is an important component of the Help@Library project. The proposal includes four regional training centres, located in Yarmouth, Halifax,Truro and Sydney. Training programs will be developed in consultation with community agencies and target groups. Groups trained at these centres will be able to practice their skills on the library workstations. Announcement of the successful provincial applications is expected to be made at the Canadian Library Association's conference in mid-June.

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

1999 Summer Reading Program preparing for lift-off

The countdown has started for the 1999 Summer Reading Program. The theme this year is Space and the motto is "Launch yourself into a good book/Lancez-vous dans la lecture." This year's program promises to be out of this world, with arrangements being made to bring an astronaut to each of the regions during the blast-off week, June 21-25. All Nova Scotia school boards have received their posters; and sweatshirts, posters, pencils, bookmarks, buttons, fridge magnets, mousepads, stickers and reading logs are available for purchase, to use as achievement prizes and incentives. The 1999 graphic, which is displayed here in the reading log, appears on all items. For information on purchasing any of our Reading Program material, please contact Arlene Watts at 902-424-4547 or by e-mail at awatts@nshpl.library.ns.ca or visit the website at http://www.library.ns.ca/children.html

STAFFING NOTES

Shirley MacLeod is replacing Sarah Hainsworth in the Media Library, Learning Resources & Technology Section as of April 6, 1999. She will be with Learning Resources & Technology until March 2000. Shirley comes from the Halifax Campus, Nova Scotia Community College where she has worked as a librarian and most recently as an Instructor in the Library Technician Program. Shirley has also worked in academic libraries at Acadia and St. Francis Xavier Universities.

Sara Underwood returned to Nova Scotia after a 20 year absence to join the staff at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library as Public Information Officer on April 12th. She has a degree in English (with a minor in Philosophy) and a diploma in Journalism. Most recently she was Marketing Coordinator for the Island Waste Management Commission on PEI. She has also worked as a journalist, editor, and researcher, and done freelance writing for CBC Radio in Charlottetown.

Derek Cormier joined the Learning Resources & Technology (LRT) team March 15th as LRT Lab Manager. He is responsible for the LRT lab, and for providing software for teachers in the Nova Scotia school system. Prior to accepting his position, Derek was in the Information Technology Services division of the Department of Education and Culture.

Congratulations to **Michael Gillis**, MultiLIS System Administrator at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. He is a Masters of Computer Science student at Dalhousie University, and recently became the

fourteenth Telecom Applications Research Alliance (TARA) scholarship recipient. Michael's scholarship will support his research efforts to create a software tool to permit Advanced Intelligent Network (AIN) services to be provided by a microcomputer based "adjunct processor". The scholarship program is designed to stimulate and develop new concepts in the Telecom/IT industry.

TRAINING NOTES

Nova Scotia Provincial Library User Services Section

Librarians from the User Services Section held five training sessions for public library staff and Nova Scotia Community College students and staff in April - two on Legal Resources, two on Statistics Canada and one on Tourism/Recreation. The training sessions took place in Yarmouth, Bridgetown and at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. If there is a program you would like to know more about, please contact Gillian Webster at 902-424-2478 or webstegs@gov.ns.ca.

Community Economic Development (CED) diploma builds skills

The increasing interest in Community Economic Development has led to a number of certificate, diploma and Masters CED courses offered by community colleges, private institutions and universities. It has become increasingly important for libraries to understand how fund administrators are thinking and how libraries can be part of the relationship with them on a regular basis.

Wendy Robichaud, Community Relations Coordinator for Colchester-East Hants Regional Library, is enrolled in the CED Diploma program at Saint Mary's University and graduates in June. She recommends the course as a valuable tool in the financial and community strategies within the Nova Scotia Regional Library system.

The new CED Diploma from Saint Mary's University and the Atlantic CED Institute is a five month course held one weekend per month on Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. Subjects covered include community asset mapping, sources of funding and economics, volunteering and the Genuine Progress Index.

The GPI is an important tool for governments when they are considering long-term funding. The application of this index can be very beneficial to libraries, since the criteria considered in calculating the GPI include economic effects which have existing infrastructure, are socially responsible, long-term, and non-polluting.

HOT TIPS

The "Common Sense, Common Ground: Preparing for Y2K" video conference was held at Nova Scotia Provincial Library April 8th. This was the second of three sessions sponsored by the Network for Creative Change in conjunction with Robert Theobald, Northwest Regional Facilitators and Washington State University. More and more citizens and communities are becoming aware of the impact of technology on our lives and the unsustainability of current practices. Y2K is a welcome teacher to encourage people to explore deeper meanings while they work on community preparedness. Visit the Resilient Communities website for more information about the Y2K debate, Basic Resources list, and other information. http://www.resilientcommunities.org/y2k

Mark your calendar for the next video conference, Making Meaning: A Challenge for the New Century, on May 27th from 1-4 p.m. in the Nova Scotia Provincial Library classroom. Contact Debbie Ross at 424-2457 for registration information.

The April 8th video conference stimulated a meeting of a Citizens Y2K Action Group, who organized a public event at Halifax North Branch Library on April 29th. Speakers included representatives from the Halifax Y2K office and the Halifax Water Commission; Leo MacDougall, a private consultant; and Norma Corbett speaking about SPAN (Strengthening Preparedness Among Neighbours). A follow-up meeting is being planned.

REFERENCE ON THE NET

Q. The patron would like to get information on repairing pump organs which are also know as reed organs.

A. At the AltaVista search engine at http://www.altavista.net/ put in the search string "pump organ" +repair. This will turn up a link called "Reed Organ Repair 1". When you click here it takes you to *Reed Organ Repair: A Generic Approach* by Jim Tyler at **http://swamp.merriweb.com.au/harmonium/auntmaud/auntmaud.html.**

Q. What are the safety rules for using painting stages at construction sites?

A. The Occupational Health & Safety Division at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/labr/ohs/index2.htm** of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/labr/** has a Publications Section at http://www.gov.ns.ca/labr/ohs/publicat.htm which has the full text of a number of their publications. One of these is "Fall Protection and Scaffolding Regulations" at **http://www.gov.ns.ca/just/regulations/regs/ohs296f.htm**.

LINKed

The Linked column this month looks at some Web sites which have newspaper links organized in directory form. According to the Newspapers section of Librarian's Index to the Internet at **http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/cgi-bin/searchindex?query=newspapers&searchtype=subjects**, there were 63 Internet resources for "newspapers" as of Apr 21, 1999. A few of these sites are described below.

Kidon Media-Link at **http://www.dds.nl/~kidon/media-link/** is a directory of newspapers and other news sources on the Internet. The categories are Newspapers, Magazines about News and Current Affairs, Television News Stations or programs, Radio News Stations or programs, and News Agencies. Newspaper links are arranged by continent, country and language. Most of the other media links are arranged by continent. In the Canadian section at **http://www.dds.nl/~kidon/media-link/capapers.shtml** links are arranged under "National" or by province/territory.

E&P MediaINFO Links at **http://www.mediainfo.com/emedia/** is on the web site of The Editor & Publisher Co. which publishes newspaper industry material. News links are arranged by Geographic Location and by Media Type. In the Canadian section at **http://www.mediainfo.com/emediajs/links-geo.htm?location=canada**, links are arranged by province and territory. The listings are not as comprehensive as those at Kidon Media-Link.

The Ultimate Collection of News Links at **http://pppp.net/links/news/** is published by PPPP.net, an Internet marketing company. This site has been given a number of awards for excellence. There are a

large number of links to online newspapers and magazines around the world which are arranged by country within continents and within each country, by subject.

AJR (American Journalism Review) NewsLink at **http://ajr.newslink.org/news.html** is, according to Librarian's Index to the Internet, "The resource for online newspapers around the world". It is a directory of thousands of newspapers, magazines, broadcasters and other media-related sites available on the Internet. Newspaper sites are arranged by country or continent and papers can be searched for by name or location.

All the World's Newspapers at **http://www.webwombat.com.au/intercom/newsprs/index.htm** originates in Australia and boasts links to 3400 online newspapers. Newspapers are arranged by countries which are listed in alphabetical order, except for American papers which can be accessed by state or alphabetically by title on the left side of the web site. This seems to be a very comprehensive and well organized list.

Sympatico NewsExpress--Newspapers and Magazines on the Web at **http://www1.sympatico.ca/Contents/News+Magazines/** has links to the major newspapers from around the world and an extensive listing of Canadian newspapers.

NewsDirectory.com:A Guide to English-Language Media Online at **http://www.newsd.com/** is a very large directory with around 12,000 categorized links of which over 7,000 are newspapers and magazines. Newspaper links are organized by country. There is a search box which is linked to Electric Library, but you have to be a subscriber to get the full text of articles which are found through the Electric Library search engine.

If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at cmorris@nshpl.library.ns.ca.

PROFESSIONAL READING

This month's column features two of the latest additions to the professional books collection. These items can be borrowed through the regular interlibrary loan channels by contacting inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca or by calling Dale MacMillan at 902-424-2479:

Crumley, Ellen T. **How Managers and Librarians Evaluate Provincial Government Department Libraries in Nova Scotia**. Halifax: Dalhousie University School of Library and Information Studies, 1998. (Call # Prof 027 509 Cru)

This is a thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Library and Information Studies. The author shows that by implementing an evaluation process, libraries are in a better position to thrive and develop in the face of constant change. The thesis outlines the types of evaluation procedures that have been used in North America, and concludes by setting out recommendations and outlining a procedure for implementing an evaluation process that takes into account not only the survey of government department libraries in Nova Scotia, but also the observations of five other major studies of special libraries.

Warner. Alice Sizer. **Budgeting: a How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians**. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, 1998. (Call# Prof. 025. 11 War)

This book is intended to serve as a primer. In an attempt to empower readers to understand their budgets, to put them into larger contexts and to deal intelligently with them, each of the seven chapters has a section at the end called "Questions To Help You Focus." These are intended to be exercises to help readers move toward real budget know-how.